

Message Text

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15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 11817

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN EALR VE

SUBJ: MINISTER OF FINANCE'S FUTURE IN DOUBT

REF: CARACAS 11741

RUMORS PERSIST IN THE BANKING COMMUNITY THAT HECTOR HURTADO WILL SOON BE REPLACED AS MINISTER OF FINANCE. SOME SOURCES EXPECT HIM TO REPLACE ALFREDO LAFEE AS PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL BANK WHEN LAFEE'S TERM EXPIRES EARLY NEXT YEAR. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT STRONG DIFFERENCES OF OPINION EXIST BETWEEN HYRTADO AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ. WHILE HURTADO HAS HIS OWN POWER BASE WITHIN THE AD PARTY, RODRIGUEZ ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT. SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESSMEN ARE ALSO UNHAPPY WITH HURTADO. IT IS REPORTED THAT CERTAIN AD PARTY LEADERS HAVE INSISTED THAT IF HURTADO IS REPLACED, EITHER GUMERSINDO OR THE GOVERNOR OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, DIEGO ARRIA, MUST LEAVE HIS PRESENT POSITION. IF CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IS FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE, AND THIS IS PROBLEMATIC, THE BETTING IS THAT HE WOULD CHOOSE GUMERSINDO TO STAY AND MOVE ARRIA TO ANOTHER POST IN THE GOVEREMENT. SHLAUDEMAM

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